identified by NTC that 14 heavily losing mills would be unviable even after heavy investment. In order to improve the performance of NTC, various alternatives including amalgamation etc. are under discussions at various levels. However, no decision has been taken in this regard.

Claims supplied by Indians returned from Kuwait

337. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indians lost their property in Kuwait during the Gulf War;

(b) whether they have submitted claims for compensation and if so, what steps have been taken in this regard; and

(c) what is the quantum of damages claimed by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Over 1,00,000 claims have been received; the data contained therein are being computarised and the information on a consolidated basis will be sent to the United Nations Compensation Commission established by the Security Council in order to pay compensation. The total of claims will be known only after the computerisation is completed.

Functioning of Indian Embassies in Middle East Countries

338. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians who have returned to Kuwait since March, 1991;

(b) whether our Embassy has been looking properly towards the interest of Indian labour in Kuwait;

(c) whether any periodic review is done of the functioning of our Embassies in the Middle East and other countries where Indian labour is employed in significant number; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to institute sufficient safeguard to ensure good treatment and sensitivity from Embassy personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Approximately 50,000 Indians nationals are estimated to have returned to Kuwait since March, 1991.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Our Embassies have been instructed to do the needful and their compliance is monitored regularly.

गुजरात में सहकारी क्षेत्र में सूती मिलों की स्थापना

339. **श्री राम सिंह राठवा**: क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गुजरात राज्य में अहमदाबाद, सूरत तथा बड़ौदा में सहकारी क्षेत्र में चल रही सूती धागे की मिलों की संख्या कितनी है;

(ख) क्या ये मिलें हथकरघा और विद्युत चालित करघा उद्योगों की मांग को पूरा करने के लिए पर्याप्त हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार गुजरात में अहमदाबाद सूरत और बड़ौदा में सहकारी क्षेत्र में किसी नई सूती धागा मिल की स्थापना का विचार रखती है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो आठवीं योजना अवधि के दौरान कितनी मिलें स्थापित किए जाने की संभावना है ?